

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAIR, ID

SUBJECT: US-GOI AVIATION RELATIONS

1. DURING CONVERSATION ON ANOTHER SUBJECT WITH KARNO BARKAH, SECRETARY TO THE DIRGEN FOR AIR COMMUNICATIONS, EMBOFF ASKED IN PASSING ABOUT ANY RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEARING ON STATUS OF US-GOI AVIATION RELATIONS. BARKAH, WHO DOES NOT FOLLOW CLOSELY BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, SAID HE THOUGHT WORK WAS IN PROGRESS TOWARD THE NEXT SESSION OF US-GOI AIR NEGOTIATIONS. HE SEEMED SURPRISED WHEN EMBOFF SAID HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY PAR-

TICULAR PREPARATION ON US SIDE AND THAT IN ABSENCE OF REQUEST FROM GOI WE DID NOT ANTICIPATE MEETING IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BARKAH SAID THE DIRGEN WAS STRENUOUSLY OPPOSED TO THE IDEA OF DENUNCIATION OF THE AGREEMENT. ONLY MINISTER SALIM APPEARS TO FAVOR SUCH AN ACTION, BUT GIVEN HIS SUPPORT THE POSSIBILITY OF DENUNCIATION CANNOT BE DISMISSED. (COMMENT: IN THE CURRENT ROUND OF RUMORS RE MINISTERIAL CHANGES, SALIM'S NAME IS USUALLY NEAR THE TOP OF THE LIST OF THOSE TO BE SHIFTED.)

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2. BARKAH DISAGREED WITH EMBOFF'S SUGGESTION THAT GARUDA DID NOT SEEM ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN LAUNCHING SERVICE TO THE US. HE DID, HOWEVER, AGREE THAT THE INDONESIAN FLAG CARRIER DID NOT VIEW THE MATTER WITH THE SAME SENSE OF URGENCY AS SALIM. WITH REGARD TO THE UTILIZATION OF GARUDA'S DC-10'S, ONE OF THE COMPANY'S MAJOR CURRENT HEADACHES, BARKAH SAID THE SECOND DC-10

WAS BEING PARTIALLY UTILIZED ON THE EUROPEAN RUN, CONFIRMED RECENT PRESS REPORTS THAT THE THIRD WOULD BE PUT INTO SERVICE ON THE AUSTRALIAN RUN AS OF NOVEMBER AND SAID THE FOURTH WOULD BE USED FOR HONG KONG/JAPAN "WHEN THE RIGHTS HAVE BEEN OBTAINED." (COMMENT: IF FOREGOING PLANS MATERIALIZE, SUCH RELATIVELY FULL, IF NOT ESPECIALLY ECONOMIC, USE OF GARUDA'S FOUR DC-10'S MIGHT FURTHER REDUCE PRESSURE FOR A U.S. SERVICE.)

3. IN THE MEANTIME, PAN AM'S NEW LOCAL REP HAS HAD A SURPRISINGLY FAVORABLE REACTION FROM GARUDA TO HIS PROPOSALS FOR AN INTERLINE AGREEMENT. (COMMENT: SURPRISING BECAUSE GARUDA HAD PREVIOUSLY SHOWN NO INTEREST IN SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT.) DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN HELD HERE AND IN HONG KONG WITH GARUDA OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT WIWEKO, WHO IS REPORTEDLY FAVORABLY DISPOSED, AND THE PAN AM REP IS FAIRLY CONFIDENT AN AGREEMENT CAN BE WORKED OUT WITHIN THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS. IN THIS REGARD, THE LONG AWAITED PAL MANILA-JAKARTA SERVICE FINALLY BEGAN LAST WEEK AND THE PAN AM REP HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE "SIXTH FREEDOM" DIVERSION OF U.S. TRAFFIC.

RIVES

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